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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 23 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 19 May 1998 (A/52/914-S/1998/418), I have the honour to draw your attention to further violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which were recorded on 13, 14, 16, 18 and 19 June 1998.

On those five days, 47 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations. On 13 June 1998 eight F-16s and eight F-4s, on 14 June 1998 two F-16s and two F-4s and on 16 June 1998 four F-16s and one and Turkish military helicopter, all of which were participating in the military exercise "Deniz Kurdu 1-98", entered the Nicosia flight information region, flying over international waters.

On 18 June 1998 12 Turkish military planes, (4 F-4s, 2 RF-4s and 6 F-16s) entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying above and along the areas of Morphou, Nicosia and Mesaoria.

On 19 June 1998 10 Turkish Air Force F-16 military planes entered the Nicosia flight information region, performing illegal aeronautical exercises in cooperation with the Turkish Navy. On the same day, three F-16s of the Turkish Air Force, which had landed on 18 June 1998 at the occupied airport of Lefkoniko, departed the airport flying towards Turkey.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in complete disregard of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine

efforts towards achieving a final settlement and violate international air traffic rules.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly these new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey, a country member of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative